



CHINESE AMERICAN CITIZENS ALLIANCE

Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge

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May 13, 2016

California Department of Education
Thomas Adams, Executive Director
Instructional Quality Commission
1430 N Street, Suite 3207
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Inclusion of Comfort Women of WWII in World History Curriculum

Dear Mr. Thomas Adams,

On behalf of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance-Greater San Gabriel Valley Lodge, we are writing to support the revision of school curriculum to include the comfort women history of World War II. Such a proposed revision was passed unanimously by the San Francisco Board of Education on April 26, 2016.

We urge your Board to vote "YES" to implement the proposed revision in the 10th graders' world history curriculum, when the issue comes up for consideration in your meeting.

As you may know, up to 200,000 Korean women were coerced and forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during the Pacific War, but little was mentioned about the tens of thousands of women of other Asian nationalities, including Chinese, Filipinos, Dutch, Indonesians, Singaporeans and Vietnamese, who suffered the same fate at that time. Thus, the total number of victims may well exceed 600,000. The comfort women issue is actually a significant international issue.

Decades after the war, Japan was able to evade its post-war responsibility due to a confluence of factors: there were the Cold War, the two civil wars that divided China and then Korea, Japanese insensitivities towards other Asians, and its crafty avoidance leveraged upon strategic needs of its allies. The victim countries were often too weak to seek apology and compensation because of the immense Japanese political clout as an economic and industrial power.

Even though Japanese government officials have made several statements expressing remorse for the travesty of human rights perpetrated upon these comfort women, their sincerity was often called into question when the officials engaged in subsequent back-tracking of their statements, called these women prostitutes, and continued to whitewash the atrocious deeds by the Japanese Imperial Army in its own education textbooks.

We strongly advocate that history as taught in the American classrooms has to tell the facts, and such a large-scale state-sponsored sexual slavery network during wartime must be taught to present and future generations with the hope that it will never happen again.

We express our deep gratitude in advance to your Board members for passing the proposed curriculum revision.

Very truly yours,



John Wong
President



Charles Mau
Vice President



David Yuen
National Representative